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the material in hand in order to discover back in the periods of boyhood and desert-obscurity the roots of his public life and teaching. This the volume under review has in its first half endeavored to do. The author emphasizes the historical and social factors which were present in the life of every Jewish boy at that time. But in doing this he has rather obscured the character of John, basing his conjectures prevailing on history rather than on the hints which the peculiar nature of John affords. One must raise the question whether this tendency has not made that part of the book more hazy than it ought to be and John's nature less characteristic than it evidently was. It is a question, too, whether much that is conjectured of John's early life does not fail wholly to blend with what is afterwards known of him. In the discussion of John's public life the author grasps the unity of his teaching and treats it all in the light of John's conception of the Kingdom of God. But even here the treatment seems to lack in clearness. In fact, a comprehensive criticism of the book is that it is more rhetorical than scientific and dispassionate, and therein lies its deficiency. Its leading, which is at times fascinating, does not always lead the reader into light. But the book is very readable and helpful, and if it does not always satisfy it very often suggests and stimulates thought.

C. E. W.

The Comprehensive Concordance to the Holy Scriptures. By REV. J. R. B. WALKER. Based on the Authorized Version. With an introduction by M. C. Hazard, Ph.D. Boston and Chicago: Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society: 1894. Octavo. Pages 980. \$2.00.

This work is an attempt to supply the need of a concordance more complete and more accurate than Cruden's and its various revisions and abridgments, without exceeding the limits of a compact and convenient octavo. It is an independent work, based on the English Bible itself and not a revision of any existing concordance. It contains fifty thousand more references than Cruden's "Complete," besides thousands more where unessential words have been superseded by more important ones. Unlike Dr. Strong's monumental work, also published last year, it does not lay claim to absolute completeness, but only to a practical completeness as regards words which one would ever use in the search for a text. This claim would seem to be justified by a practical test. A considerable number of passages were taken at random from the Old and New Testaments and each verse was found by means of the Concordance under not less than four and sometimes as many as thirteen different words, the average being six. It would thus seem that the book is sufficiently complete for all practical purposes as a "text-finder," which is all it claims to be. Indeed, it may be questioned whether some words of little importance might not be omitted altogether without loss to the student. It is difficult to see, for example, on what principle of selection such a word as "but" is given for seventeen passages and omitted for hundreds of others where it is used in the same way. Unlike the usage of Young's Analytical and similar works

each word is found in its own order without reference to the corresponding word in the original Hebrew or Greek, and derived forms are arranged alphabetically rather than under their primary or root forms. Whatever loss this may be for certain purposes, it is undoubtedly a gain in what professes to be a concordance simply. To save space in quotations, words occurring many times are classified according to their connection with other words, rather than given in their natural order, *e. g.*, a verse containing the word "people" may not perhaps be found under that word but under some expression like All people, All the people, Among the people, Before the people, People of God, His people, People of the land, and so forth. While this arrangement facilitates the finding of a word, by one familiar with the method, it is confusing to one who uses the book only occasionally.

In a hundred references two incorrect ones were found. A fuller examination would be necessary as a basis for judgment upon the general accuracy of the work.

An interesting and valuable feature of the book is the Bibliography in the Introduction. This is much more than a bare list of concordances, but is rather a historical survey of concordance making, from the first Latin concordance in the thirteenth century to the present time. It includes Latin, Greek and Hebrew concordances and those of the principal modern versions as well as those in English. To the last named division alone nine pages are devoted.

C. E. C.

Defense of the Christian Faith. By PROFESSOR F. GODET; translated by W. H. Lyttelton, A.M., Rector of Hagley and Canon of Gloucester. Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons: New York, 1895. \$1.75.

Books on apologetics have played an important part in the history of the church. Infidelity and rationalism are constantly shifting the ground of attack on Christianity, hence many books of the past on "The Evidences" are practically worthless, because they are not up to the needs of the times.

Professor Godet's book is fully abreast of modern thought, and by its broad scholarship, logical argument, and suggestive treatment of the subjects of modern apologetics supplies a felt need to the student and minister.

The book consists of seven lectures, which while lacking a unity of treatment are yet separately of great importance.

The mention of them will suffice to show the author's comprehensive treatment of the subject.

- I. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- II. The Hypothesis of Visions.
- III. The Miracles of Jesus Christ.
- IV. The Supernatural.
- V. The Perfect Holiness of Jesus Christ.
- VI. The Divinity of Jesus Christ.
- VII. The Immortality of the Apostolic Gospel.